

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES INFORMATION SHEET

Name of the Partnership/Initiative

System planning and management of transboundary ecosystem resources in the south-western Amazon toward the sustainable development of local communities and regional stability.

Expected date of initiation: 2003

Expected date of completion: 2007

Partners Involved:

Governments: Italy (ministry of Foreign Affairs – DGCS), Bolivia, Brazil and Peru.

Intergovernmental organizations: IUCN, UNDCP, FAO

Major groups:

Global organizations: IUCN networks;

Governmental organizations: INRENA, DEVIDA, SERNAP, Forestry ‘superintendencia’, UCPOI, IBAMA, INPA;

NGO’s: CESVI

Other:

Local and native community organisations, CIDOB, COICA

Leading Partner: : Italy - DGCS

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

Background

The south-western region of the Amazon, albeit generally characterized by a wealth of both environmental and cultural complexity, represents an ecosystem with a certain degree of structural homogeneity of flora and fauna which marks a strident contrast with the diversity of forms of natural resources exploitation that are practised by governmental bodies, private enterprises and communities in Bolivia, Brazil and Peru.

Besides, a scenario characterised by a tremendous asset of scientific social and economic development potential is shared by the above three countries which is moreover compounded by a relatively homogenous management demand and set of priorities in the area. However, neither such a favourable management framework is paralleled by any coherent transnational policy frameworks, nor systemic administrative planning efforts and approaches are put forward.

Scattered technical and legal management schemes in the region emerge among the causes behind the significant political and social sensitiveness which characterise the area. This, for example, applies to the vulnerability of the local communities to dangerous setbacks in terms of access to food and incidence of health pathologies, with children being the first and hardest hit victims. The above leads to the contradictory scenario of an area with very high biological diversity, an apparently thriving environment and a low-density population, which cannot guarantee the minimum living standards of life, hygiene, food, health and education to local people.

A number of causes are behind the locally significant incidence of social unrest which include the un-appropriate use and access to natural resources; commercial models of exploitation of the humid tropical forested areas which favour mining and extraction; the various sets of incoherent norms and ecologically incorrect incentives adopted by the countries of the area; the scarce information and the generalised adoption of resource utilisation modalities and practices that are not compatible with the maintenance of developmentally significant levels of ecosystemic productivity; conventional approaches in the use of forest resources, the 'slash and burn' practice being their epitome, that guarantee but a short-lived use of areas that degrade and have to be abandoned after two or three crops, forcing the people to move in search of new areas to exploit, with similarly disruptive and unsustainable modalities.

The absence of any sound systemic planning and regulatory mechanism to rationalise and discipline the heavy removal of wild animals products has an immediate bearing on both the preservation of biological diversity as well as its functionally related nutritional balance of the local human communities. Unsustainable hunting practices is reducing to unviable levels the population of key stone forest species which play a vital role in the availability human intake of proteins. And this specifically applies to the more vulnerable large forest mammals (like the giant armadillo, the tapir, the crying spider monkey, etc.) which are now on the verge of total extinction. In the local cultural and ethnic context the current pattern of resource use and regulation of right to the forest space generates additional environmental conflicts among the local population. Indigenous groups, principally *yaminahua*, *machineri*, *araona*, *tacana*, *esse ejja*, but also *chacobo* and *pacahuara*) have been the principal victims as they saw their historic and traditional territory being gradually taken away from them, thus causing a sensible reduction of their access to the resources of the area.

All these problems are generated or worsened by the technical and operative weakness of both the institutions and organizations with general administrative mandates in the area and those specifically in charge of the sustainable management of the renewable natural resources.

The above has directly impacted the ecosystems of the south-western Amazon which, consequently, are under growing pressures as the above illustrated non-sustainable development model, characterised by the absence of any systemic transboundary planning from the three countries, incessantly weakens the ground toward the present and future availability of natural resources together with the inherent social opportunities of the local population. The native ones being the harder hit.

Justification

The Governments of Bolivia, Brazil and Peru, the organizations concerned with the environmental conservation and the sustainable development at the local and worldwide levels, the scientific community, the grassroots groups (natives, farmers...) and the private enterprises that are involved or are economically interested in the region and its resources (wood, Brazilian nuts, palm hearts, tourism, agro- industry, handicrafts, etc.), are all committed to the search for a strategy for the preparation of a shared methodology of sound management and control of the land that will allow its sustainable use, to the benefit of local and national communities, and hence allowing for an equitable, correct and long-term access to its resources.

As a contribution towards the above international pursuits, a Wildlife Corridor has been created in the Vilcabamba-Amorò area. It runs from the Department of Apurimac in Peru to the department of Santa Cruz in Bolivia, also touching the State of Acre in Brazil, encumbering about 1.500 km of forests and humid zones between the south west Amazon lowlands and the first Andean slopes. Furthermore, mechanisms of international dialogue and communication, such as the M.A.P. net, have been put in place. The M.A.P., an initiative shared by public and private sectors of the three bordering regions of Madre de Dios (Peru), Acre (Brazil) e Pando (Bolivia), has been active since 1999 and has elaborated proposals for the environmental planning of trans-boundary areas of primary environmental and cultural importance.

In the very the south-western Amazon across the Bolivia Brazil and Peru borders, which represents the world wealthiest in terms of terrestrial biodiversity, the Italian ODA, the Directorate General for Development Cooperation, has implemented a number of projects aimed at the sustainable management of the environment to the benefit of community development, fight against drug production and regional stability.

These interventions represent concrete contributions toward boosting a process of rational use of environmental goods and services (water, climate, soils, biodiversity, etc.) that will allow the local populations, also through training and the provision of decision-making support tools, to gain a more active participation. The inherent rise in awareness on the sustainability implications of different forms of use of the environmental resources by the indigenous people, the small producers and the agro-forestry extractors, will establish a solid basement for the improvement of the living conditions of young people, women and future generations, also contributing to reducing the continued migrations within the area towards the cities or, even worse, abroad.

Consistently, the pursuits of such initiatives include the formulation and implementation of effective development proposals based on forms of land use alternative to the cultivation of coca (Tambopata-Inambari, in Peru); the sustainable use of biodiversity by native communities, and the recovery of the indigenous culture and traditions in the upper area of the Madre de Dios river watershed (Peruvian Amazon).

An asset of technical and methodological experiences has been acquired, together with the institutional and community involvement momentum generated within the preceding projects in the Peruvian part of the shared Amazon ecosystems. Such an asset constitutes a solid foundation for the implementation of the present partnership project with particular regard to a base framework upon which to build a process of transboundary systemic planning and management, as well as trigger its development implementations in Bolivia and Brazil. The above, while also

contributing to the legislative and procedural harmonization at regional level toward environment conservation and related sustainable use of resources, increased community involvement, and both, the generation of opportunities and the institutional recognition of the local population development constraints and perspectives.

Objectives

The general objective of the programme is to improve the living conditions of the local communities while ensuring the conservation of biological diversity and other ecosystem resources and services of the Amazon forest. This will be achieved by improving the relationships among the different administrative, scientific, conservation and social groups present in the area toward the sustainable and harmonious development of the three neighbouring countries sharing the same ecosystems and, hence, planning and management problems and development opportunities.

More specifically, this objective will be achieved by jointly designing and carrying out a strategy, commonly agreed upon by, and with the contributions of public and private organizations, and the key groups of the three countries, toward the conservation and the sustainable use of the natural resources and of the biodiversity in the south-western Amazonian forest ecosystems.

The above target will be pursued by establishing a systemic transnational framework in support of the integration of existing relevant inter-institutional and information networks and attracting the involvement also of the international donors focussing on other sectors indirectly related to sustainable development and preservation of the biodiversity, such as the fight against drug production, poverty alleviation and food security, access to basic services like health and education, and the strengthening of equitable systems and processes and of social participation.

Please also provide a brief description of the relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration

The partnership programme is fully coherent with the recommendations of Agenda 21 which underline the central role played by the international cooperation, ecosystem based planning and management, and the sustainable use of the natural resources, toward environmental preservation and the economic and social development. In the present partnership initiative the enhancement of livelihood and well being opportunities for local communities, including the particular consideration given to the children strata of the beneficiary population, is consistent with the spirit and specifically addressing priority component of the Millennium Goals.

Expected results:

A Decision Support System DSS for best governance of the conservation and sustainable development process, to be used by decision makers on a local, national or regional level, developed and implemented for the South-West Amazon. Such a DSS will be developed as a common standardized tool for all relevant institutional decision makers in Bolivia, Brazil and Peru, for the systemic planning and management of the south-western Amazonia. The DSS will be based on participatory collection, organization and consolidation of socio-economic, physical

and environmental data. The DSS development process will include geo-referenced and dynamic databases, predictive models, trained staff, a general plan for systems management of the region, some detailed operational plans for pilot project applications.

Essential aspects will be:

- collection and completion of objective and geo-referenced socio-economic data (demography, food, education, health and disease, etc.) and biophysical natural resource data (geology and geophysics, land use, land cover, hydrology, climate and meteorology, pollution, transport); development of relevant database and GIS applications,
 - development and implementation of analytical, simulating and predictive models for the relevant problems and ecosystems,
 - training and involvement of local scientists and experts for knowledge exchange and transfer,
 - integration of the above database/GIS applications and analytical/simulating/predictive models into the DSS systemic framework for the planning and sustainable management of the transboundary ecosystems, in the light of an integrated undertaking of poverty alleviation and environmental conservation priorities,
 - capacity building of system users (policy makers, stakeholders). Implementation of an open, integrated and agreed database based on the systematisation of the experiences accrued in the three countries. Building upon the outcomes of the implementation and institutional establishment of the DSS process and with the support of its systemic planning contributions both at national and transboundary levels.
- Identification and application of methodologies for the systematic management of the environment and the mitigation of the impacts of unsustainable human activities. These methodologies will be developed on the basis of the analysis of the existing conditions and of statistical projections on their related future impacts as objectively made with the support of the DSS predictive models.
 - Application of common policies and strategies of sustainable development jointly defined by the countries -with also the contribution of the communities- of the south-western Amazonian area on transboundary/regionally shared development problems and/or potentials.
 - Activation of a process of harmonization of the sector laws and regulations of the different nations of the South West Amazonian region with the aim of promoting a sustainable use of the natural resources in the area
 - The capacity building, field conservation and socio-economic development outcomes of the implementation of the new project component together with its pilot contributions to be offered for replication within subsequent cooperation efforts.

The above result of the partnership initiative will be mediated by an estimated direct involvement of a beneficiary population spanning:

- 5.000 indigenous families, including an average of 15-20 thousand children

- 15.000 small scale agricultural and/or gatherer families (cablocos), including an average of 45.000 thousand children.

Besides, with less directly earmarked modalities, a process will be started of gradual involvement of urban populations which is currently engaged in activities functional to forestry enterprises including forest product transformation, packaging etc, an approximate half of which is constituted by children below 16 years of age.

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:

Within the targeted geographical span of the partnership initiative comprising the south western Amazon, including the departments of Madre de Dios and the eastern administrative sector of Puno, in Peru, the State of Acre in Brazil, and the department of Pando, the Iturralde province of La Paz, and western sector of Beni, in Bolivia, specific targets include:

- Systematisation of and improved access to the knowledge relevant to natural resources productivity and conservation potentials in order to support exchange of information and experiences among local and national actors of the three countries, as well as their sustainable use.
- Development and institutional acquisition of a strategy toward a joint transboundary policy of environmental education earmarked to the school age population of the region.
- The access ensured of local populations, be them native, country or city dwellers, to development opportunities linked to the sustainable use of natural resources and their nutrition, health and education standards.
- The capacity acquired for estimating objectively future negative impacts and potential of various development alternatives in fragile areas, with particular regard to those with the highest levels of biological diversity and major significance for their contribution to the sustainability of ecosystemic equilibria, services and productivity.
- Establishment and consolidation of transnational coordination mechanisms in support of the administrative institution and the civil society of the three countries toward coherence and harmonisation of respective management plans and relevant regulations in an endeavour to agree on common and synergetic efforts toward containing the mounting pressure exerted by current development models on the ecosystems.
- The formulation of joint proposals addressed to the local and national decision-making bodies, in order to adopt instruments of sustainable environment policies, within a framework of a legislative and planning harmonization among the three countries.
- The promotion of technologies that can be shared by the three countries including their communities, with the aim of supporting the decision making processes concerning land management and the use of natural resources (DSS, etc.), in the context of fragile ecosystems under constant threat.
- A process consolidated of systematic application of commonly agreed environmental policies, particularly those related to thematic areas of interest shared by two or three of the partner countries such as those relevant to the:
 - relationships between development and conservation stakeholders in development and environmentally critical areas which are provided with road communications (e.g. the Wildlife Corridor of Vilcabamba-Amborò and the transoceanic road from the Atlantic to the Pacific);
 - relationships relevant to land tenure problems, including between and within

- environmental authorities and native communities.
- territorial regulation of wooded areas and the adequate management of the forest use permits and certification.
 - illegal logging of economically valuable types of wood (mahogany and cedar) and other forestry and forest animal and plant wildlife products.

The above targets are to be considered as triggers and/or foundations for long-term sustainable development processes which are expected to be released within a three-year timeframe.

Coordination and Implementation mechanism

A network of relevant core stakeholders from the three countries will play an advisory role with IUCN providing general coordination basing on its international links, national memberships and field capacity and experiences in the targeted contexts. Through their established expertise, they will also provide policy advice and facilitate project operations, the execution of project components such as training and institutional capacity building, data base creation, as well as access and inter-linkages between databases of various institutions. IUCN will also monitor progress of the initiatives basing on specific objective indicators with particular consideration given to the conservation and development pursuits of Agenda 21 and the Millennium Development Goals.

IUCN will be a resource for technical and scientific expertise, as well as for databases (on biodiversity, water, climate change) and a network through which to access further environmental and socio-economic data. Coordination will also be established with the IUCN relevant sector initiatives. IUCN will also play a key role in advising on conservation strategies, policy advocacy and sustainability.

Building upon his experience in the Peruvian Amazon, CESVI will be in charge of the development of the Decision Support System hardware-software complex (modelling), together with IUCN.

The opportunities offered by existing coordinating networks, like the M.A.P. will be used in order to enhance the coordination at the international level.

Arrangements for funding

DGCS expected contribution will be of Euro 2.300.000.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer

The Partnership contributions are particularly focused on capacity building and know-how transfer activities such as training, and technological transfer, institutional strengthening and both institutional and non governmental users' capacity building.

Expected arrangements for technology transfer include the establishment of a methodological and procedural framework in support of the development of transnational procedural methodology and relevant regulations, on-the-job training on pilot projects and national and regional inter-institutional cooperation, including on shared ecosystem resources inventory, monitoring and systemic planning and management.

Know-how and experiences transfer will be ensured hand in hand with a programme of presentation and joint analyses of case studies, publications, academic interchanges, post-graduate exchange work, etc.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)

The partnership initiative will promote links and partnerships with existing environmental, development, conflict resolution and stabilization networks and processes at regional (Amazon) and national levels. The programme will systemically integrate with the planning processes of the ecological areas, with the support of IUCN, Conservation International and other major environmental institutions, as well as with the contribution of the network of Amazon native organizations, COICA.

A direct link will also be established with the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, with Andean Community of Andean Nations CAN, Andean Pact, and with the other existing relevant bilateral agreements.

Monitoring Arrangements

The monitoring of the programme progress will be based on a periodic evaluation of both the executed activities and their conservation and development outcomes. This will be done in close collaboration and with the active participation of the institutions and organisations with mandates on environmental policies in the three countries. The foreseen participation of representatives of relevant international agreements, the involvement of NGO's in project activities, CSO's, Producers Associations, etc will contribute to ensuring transparent access to relevant information and follow up on the status and progress in the implementation of the various project components.

Other relevant information:

Web-sites:

DGCS: www.esteri.it - IUCN: www.iucn.org - CESVI: www.cesvi.org

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